How To Dry Lumber For Quality & Profit - 2026

Monday, Dec. 14

8:00 Course introduction
Why wood is dried
Safety
Softwood structure
9:30 Break
Moisture content
Oven-dry method (optional)
Wood variability
Measuring temperature and humidity
Psychrometrics, EMC
11:30 Lunch
Shrinkage and strength
Water movement in wood
Factors affecting the drying rate
Stress development and relief
2:15 Break
Drying defects
Types of schedules
Time-based schedules
Q&A
4:00 Adjourn

Tuesday, Dec. 15

8:00 Equalization
Conditioning and cooldown
Selecting an air velocity
Additional schedule considerations
Other schedule considerations
9:30 Break
High-temperature drying
Continuous kiln schedules
Kiln designs
Steam
Steam-heated kilns, steam delivery
11:30 Lunch

Tuesday, Dec. 15 (cont)

Steam-heated kilns, condensate return
Direct-fired kilns (optional)
Venting and humidification
Fan systems
Baffling
Sorting in the sawmill
2:15 Break
Stacking
Loading the kiln
Preparing to dry
Q&A
4:00 Adjourn

Wednesday, Dec. 16

8:00 Starting and running the kiln
Moisture meters
MC measurement at the kiln
9:30 Break
Maintenance, mechanical 1
Maintenance, mechanical 2
How the controller works
Maintenance, control system
11:30 Lunch
Measuring airflow
Cost of drying
Energy
Minimizing downtime
2:15 Break
Describing data
Measuring and organizing data
Analysis techniques
Q&A
4:00 Closing remarks and adjourn